These include laying of a pipeline from Kakinada to Haldia, a portion of which would fall in Orissa State, setting up an above ground coal gasification plant and studying the feasibility of setting up of a petrochemical complex.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise in view of (c) above.

Expansion of LPG coverage in A.P.

1573. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that only 57 per cent of population in A.P. has been covered by domestic LPG;

(b) if so, what efforts the public sector oil marketing companies are making to increase the percentage of population covered in A.P. from 56 per cent to 75 per cent at the end of this year; and

(c) what is the impact of Government's advice to public sector oil marketing companies to concentrate their expansion plan in semi-urban and rural areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) As on 01.02.2006, Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) were operating 602 LPG distributorships in the State of Andhra Pradesh. Through these distributorships, OMCs are serving about 83.37 lakhs LPG customers covering 57.5% population of Andhra Pradesh.

(b) and (c) Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) supply domestic LPG through their distribution network and they have the freedom to set up LPG distributorships at viable locations as per their commercial considerations. Government has advised OMCs to concentrate their future expansion plans in semi-urban and rural areas in the country. OMCs have taken steps in introducing 5 kg. cylinders and setting up community kitchens with a view to covering the uncovered rural areas. It is not possible to indicate any specific time frame for setting up of new LPG distributorships.

Re-negotiation of LNG price with Iran

1574. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Iran wants to re-negotiate the LNG price with India at current market conditions;